



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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Sen. Ryan McKenna's Measure to Ban Text Messaging While Driving Receives First-Round Approval

JEFFERSON CITY – In an effort to keep Missouri roads safe, Sen. Ryan McKenna, D-Crystal City, recently proposed a measure that would make it illegal to text message on a cell phone while driving. The provision was added to [Senate Bill 58](#) during debate on March 11.

“I don’t see how it is possible that a driver can pay proper attention to the road while reading or typing a text message,” said Sen. McKenna. “It is a danger to the families on Missouri roads who are driving safely.”

The provision would prohibit drivers from sending, reading, or writing text messages or electronic messages while operating a vehicle on highways in Missouri. If pulled over for texting, a driver could be ticketed and would face a fine of up to \$200. Exceptions to the measure are included for drivers behind the wheel of an emergency vehicle or those sending a text message in an emergency situation.

“I know how frustrating it is to see someone narrowly miss being involved in an accident and to then notice that they are texting on their cell phone,” said Sen. McKenna. “There have been too many accidents and countless near-misses because of this problem.”

Senate Bill 58 needs to receive a final vote in the Senate before moving to the House.

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